

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
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SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS **AUGUST 20, 2009**
HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER ROOM 214, 110 EAST MAIN STREET,
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Jane Ogle.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Tom O'Donnell, Barbara Spector, Gordon Yamate, John Bourgeois, Chuck Sloan, Joe Pirzynski, Jane Ogle, Libby Lane, Tim Lundell, Deborah Weinstein, Marcia Jensen, Tom Spilsbury

Members absent: Barbara Cardillo, Perry Hirari, Dan Ross

Staff present: Greg Larson, Town Manager; Bud Lortz, Deputy Town Manager; Wendie Rooney, Director of Community Development; Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner; Joel Paulson, Associate Planner

Consultants present: David Early & Chad Markell, DC&E

Public attendees: Ray Davis, Jonathan Knowles

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ray Davis commented on Monday's Town Council meeting and the outstanding singing of the national anthem by two high school girls. He also expressed disappointment about the lack of GPAC members present at August 8 community meeting, and the inability for the public to speak on anything other than the four main topics.

Jonathan Knowles, Arts Commissioner and Chair of Music in the Park, spoke about the large number of dogs in the Town and the need for off leash recreation opportunities for dog owners.

ITEM 1 INTRODUCTION AND MEETING FRAMEWORK

Greg Larson spoke about the importance of tonight's meeting. This is the first of three meetings to review draft goals and policies. It is a transition moment for the GPAC, shifting from a learning and information gathering mode to decision making. He asked the Committee to provide direction and feedback on the draft goals and policies. The goal is to get through half of the sections tonight. About half is environment related and

that topic may require an entire meeting. By next June staff hopes to have a document ready to take to the Town Council for consideration.

ITEM 2 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #3

ITEM 3 REVIEW OF GENERAL PLAN DRAFT GOALS & POLICIES

Chad Markell, DC&E, noted that a summary of workshop #3 has been provided to the Committee. For tonight, the existing goals and policies were provided along with the draft goals and policies for three of the four focus areas. Comments should be made on the overall content and anything that might be missing. Everything is new although some items are intended to support something in the existing General Plan.

Parks & Recreation:

John Bourgeois clarified that the Parks & Recreation criteria will be part of the Open Space Element and not a separate new element.

Marcia Jensen clarified that the existing goals and policies were provided as background. *David Early* noted that the existing goals and policies will remain unchanged. The new goals and policies will be added to the document, and are what is being reviewed.

Barbara Spector commented on O.P.2X (2) and wondered how it would be implemented. *Bud Lortz* said for example, if there was room in front of a restaurant such as Pizza My Heart for outdoor seating, it would be a good opportunity to provide an area for kids that frequent that location. He noted that the Los Gatos Boulevard Plan includes nodes that are intended to be gathering places. That design would be attractive to youth and other people to congregate in an area that they already frequent.

Wendie Rooney noted that the design and creation of spaces for youth could be taken into consideration as part of the Capital Improvement Program.

Joe Pirzynski noted that the question is, is the Town interested in designing spaces for kids in the Central Business District, and how they might differ from existing places where people gather in the Downtown. He questioned whether a goal is needed.

Jane Ogle clarified that the goals and policies have been developed from comments received at community meetings.

Bud Lortz noted that it may need to be looked at more broadly, to provide safe gathering places throughout the Town. There may be some concern about targeting the CBD.

Libby Lane noted that Downtown Campbell has done this in some areas, although the sidewalk is narrower there.

Marcia Jensen commented that it is an interesting planning question. When talking about youth oriented businesses, there is a tendency for them to congregate in certain locations. They will not necessarily gather in a location where they would not ordinarily go.

Bud Lortz asked if there is an interest in broadening this goal to make it Town-wide.

Tom O'Donnell commented that gathering places such as Peet's Coffee did not come about because of the General Plan. It is more a result of the location and it's proximity to The Terraces.

Tim Lundell said that there is any merit to including this policy, it does not need to be specific to youth.

Joe Pirzynski noted that the current language in the General Plan includes criteria for things such as the allee by Purrsnickety.

David Early suggested simplifying it to state "develop informal gathering places throughout the Town".

Barbara Spector said gathering places are driven by the land use.

Joe Pirzynski commented that the language should be examined to determine where gathering places are prohibited. He agreed that gathering places are related to use.

David Early noted that policies are general in nature and aren't intended to cover every circumstance or development that might occur.

Jane Ogle commented that the word "should" be replaced by a verb such as encouraged.

Marcia Jensen suggested eliminating the words "for adults" in O.P (5).

Tom Spilsbury questioned the use of a specific number in O.P (6). *David Early* clarified that it is intended to apply to a new development and would be included in the project.

Jane Ogle commented O.P (7) seems more like a process than something that belongs in a General Plan.

Tom Spilsbury wondered how individuals will work with churches. *Bud Lortz* said for example, the JCC was required to make their recreation facilities available to the public.

David Early noted that "for youth" should be deleted from the end of the policy as was done for #5.

Joe Pirzynski commented that O.P (9) appears to be a redirection of the existing park system, moving from more passive to active recreation. *John Bourgeois* agreed.

Tom O'Donnell said he interprets it as a statement asking whether parks are being used. *Bud Lortz* said "passive" and "active" could be added. *David Early* suggested eliminating the word "recreation".

Tom Spilsbury commented that the idea is to adapt parks to current needs.

Joe Pirzynski said his concern is the word "redevelopment" as the intent is not to redevelop all the parks in Town.

Tom Spilsbury said parks could be modified or redesigned as needs change.

David Early noted that if the Town does not want to consider redesigning parks during the next 10-15 years the policy should be deleted.

Barbara Spector commented that the real issue is whether to maintain a primarily passive use of our parks or allow active uses such as soccer. The question is some want to allow the potential for active use.

Joe Pirzynski said it is not strictly one use or the other. *David Early* noted that the policy will be reworded.

Marcia Jensen questioned allowing community gardens anywhere and that there is too much language in the policy O.P (10).

Chuck Sloan commented that his neighborhood (Rinconada Hills) had a community garden. You don't necessarily want to have them everywhere as they don't always look attractive.

Barbara Spector commented that dogs are often off leash in parks and at the high school. There is a need for areas for dogs to run off leash given the high number of dogs in Town and she would like to add a policy to address this.

Barbara Spector commented on the use of the word "enhanced" in O.G (11), and what that means. *Bud Lortz* said it could be something such as restoring the concrete section of Los Gatos Creek. Policies will be added to support this goal.

Marcia Jensen clarified that this is intended to apply to the waterway as opposed to the creek trail.

John Bourgeois noted that there is a section in the environment and sustainability section and to avoid duplication.

Senior Needs

David Early noted on HS.G (2) the goal is to provide senior living facilities in Town.

Marcia Jensen commented on the use of the word “should” in HS.G (3). It was decided that it will be replaced by the word “encouraged”.

Barbara Spector commented that it might not work from a practical standpoint. *Bud Lortz* said as an example, a developer could be required to contribute toward the community bus or a shuttle service.

Tom O'Donnell commented that HS.P (4) appears to be a goal, not a policy.

Barbara Spector noted that this is a policy that the Town has no control over.

Joe Pirzynski asked if it should be broadened beyond fitness.

Marcia Jensen commented that the language is vague in HS.P. (7) and could be interpreted different ways. Clarification will be provided as to what mobility means.

Tom O'Donnell commented that “universal design” is not a commonly known term.

Tom O'Donnell commented that HS.P (9) needs clarification.

Marcia Jensen commented on the use of the word “shall” in HS.P (10) as it mandates providing intergenerational spaces, and the policy is too specific in citing cafes. She also wondered how this increases mobility for seniors.

Chuck Sloan said this is a very important concept. It doesn't have to be a café, but provision of intergenerational spaces makes the facility a place where you want your mother to be.

Youth Needs

John Bourgeois clarified that this will be a sub-section of the Human Services Element.

Barbara Spector commented that the Town will be partnering with these organizations, and she wants to make sure it is feasible.

Tom O'Donnell commented that the goal is to make Los Gatos a better place for youth, but he is unsure if the proposed policies will accomplish that.

Barbara Spector commented on providing entrepreneurial opportunities for youth and how the Town would be involved: HS.P (3)

Tom O'Donnell commented on the feasibility of accomplishing HS.P (8)

Bud Lortz said what needs to be addressed is who is responsible and how the policy can be implemented. He asked the Committee to comment on which of the policies need clarification.

David Early noted that #2 and #9 can be done by the Town whereas the other policies mean partnering with another agency or encouraging them to be done.

Committee consensus was that mentoring and emotional support is not something the Town should be involved in.

David Early broke the policies into three categories: those that can be done (direct role), those that the Town wants to encourage or work with another agency to accomplish and those that are not appropriate and should not be included.

The Committee decided that 2 and 3 should be deleted. 4, 6, 9 and 10 will be implemented by the Town. 5 and 7 are in the middle category and 8 needs more research.

Joe Pirzynski commented that spaces are desirable in HS.G (16), but the policy is too specific. *David Early* noted that the word “create” should be changed to “encourage” or something else that is more appropriate.

Barbara Spector commented that the Planning Commission and Council will be out in the position of having to decide an issue based on the use.

Joe Pirzynski said we all agree we want a youth friendly environment. Where it breaks down is regulating uses.

Consensus was to delete HS.G (17).

Chad Markell noted that HS.G (26) is related to the Safe routes to School program. The policy will be rewritten to apply to youth bicycle and travel programs.

Tom O'Donnell commented that HS.P (27) is mandatory the way it is written. *David Early* said this policy and policy 29 will be relocated to the Transportation Element. 29 will be rewritten to apply to parks and locations the Town has control over.

Tom Spilsbury suggested changing “provide” to “promote” in HS/P (28)

Consensus was to delete HS.P (30).

OTHER BUSINESS

None

General Plan Advisory Committee


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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting of the General Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 3, 2009.

Prepared by:


Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner